

“I shall always be ready to remind you of these things...” (2 Peter 1:21)



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## WESTSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST

### Where We Meet

1017 S. 2<sup>nd</sup> St. (Old Hwy. 367)  
Cabot, AR 72023

### When We Meet

#### Sunday

Bible Classes – 9:00 am  
Worship – 10:00 am, 5:00 pm

#### Wednesday

Bible Classes – 7:00 pm

### Our Elders

R.D. Hopper  
Norman Kemper

### Our Deacons

Troy Hunter  
Kelly Kendall  
Tony Ramick

### Our Preacher

Alex Hale



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# Resembling God Through Godliness

by Alex Hale



A few years ago, the All American Pet Food Company sponsored a contest to see which dog owner in America most resembled their beloved canine companion. There were six finalists, all of which looked somewhat like their dog. The Bible teaches that mankind is made in the image of God. In our thoughts and actions, however, do we resemble Him? In 2 Peter 1, we are given a list of characteristics which we must develop in our own lives so that we will bear a resemblance to the God of heaven. As we continue our study of these “Christian graces,” we come to the subject of godliness.

### What Is Godliness?

The word used in 2 Peter is the Greek word *eusebeia*. Sometimes it is translated “holiness.” Literally it means “good devotion,” “genuine devoutness,” or “piety.” It is a word used to describe an inward quality of one’s heart who is devoted completely to God, His kingdom, and His purposes (Psalm 42:1-2). Mark Buchanan has written, “*Eusebeia* is God-centeredness.” Charles Swindoll once wrote that godliness is “not skin-deep. No – it is something below the surface of life, deep down in the realm of an attitude ... an attitude toward God Himself. The person who is godly is one whose heart is sensitive toward God – it’s someone who takes God seriously.”

The opposite of godliness is worldliness (1 John 2:16). If godliness is “God-centeredness,” then worldliness is self-centeredness. Buchanan writes that worldliness “is me, me, me. It’s getting what I want and when I want it ... Worldliness is whatever makes sin look more attractive than God. It’s whatever makes you think that defying or ignoring God will bring you more reward than obeying Him.”

### Why Is Godliness So Important?

**God wants us to be godly** (Leviticus 11:44). Though God loves us “as we are,” He wants us to grow and develop to be everything we can be. One has said, “God’s love takes hold of us as we are, in our prodigal ... squalor, but loves us until it makes us what we are to become, a son restored, cleansed head to toe ... inside and out, dressed in royal robes, and sated on fatted calf.” Parents understand this principle of love because you love your kids as they are, while at the same time you want them to mature and reach their full potential. Your love leads you to sacrifice time to teach them. Your love leads you to rebuke and chasten them, correcting and disciplining them as needed. Your love leads you to strive to help them to be better. This is how God’s love extends to us (Hebrews 12:5-11).

**Godliness has value for all of life** (1 Timothy 4:8-9). In our society, we place value in physical health and material wealth. Ironically, as we have become more affluent, we also have more emotional and mental disorders and more addictions than any culture. According to one survey, the U.S. ranks lower in a listing of the world’s “happiest countries” than Nigeria, a nation that is one of the poorest in the world. Is it possible that the things of this world have blinded us to what *truly* matters? Paul is not teaching that bodily exercise is worthless, but rather that godliness is of so much *more* worth. Are we like the writer of Ecclesiastes, seeking joy and fulfillment in all sorts of areas of life? Our lives may be unsettled and unhappy because we are not pursuing the right thing – we are not putting on godliness, the character trait that has value in all things.